

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00
FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4112
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS LONDON 08329

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: ENRG TECH UK PARM IAEA
SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN SPEECH ON NON-
PROLIFERATION: ADDITIONAL REMARKS

1. THE TEXT OF FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S MAY 19 SPEECH
ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION IS BEING SENT BY SEPTTEL.
IN A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOLLOWING HIS SPEECH,
OWEN MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS OF INTEREST REGARDING
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THE NEED FOR CREDIBILITY IN THE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL
AND SERVICES, BRITAIN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD FUEL REPROCESS-
ING, POSSIBLE UK INITIATIVES ON SALT, AND THE RELATION-
SHIP BETWEEN SUPPLY OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONRY TO NNWS
AND NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY ON THE QUESTIONABLE RELIA-

BILITY OF THE U.S. AS A SUPPLIER OF NUCLEAR FUEL AND RELATED SERVICES, OWEN OBSERVED THE CREDIBILITY OF SUPPLY GUARANTEES POSES A REAL PROBLEM. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT FURTHER ASSURANCES, POSSIBLY IN THE FORM OF A TREATY OBLIGATION OR STOCKPILING, MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IN ARRIVING AT AN ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON NON-PROLIFERATION.

3. ON BRITAIN'S SUPPORT FOR FUEL REPROCESSING, OWEN STATED THE UK WAS NOT CHANGING ITS POSITION AT PRESENT BUT WILL REVIEW IT IN LIGHT OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDY (INFCEP) CONCLUSIONS. HE ADDED THAT NO DEFINITE DECISION ON THE REPROCESSING CONTRACT WITH THE JAPANESE IS LIKELY BEFORE THE INFCEP. OWEN NOTED THAT AT THE SUMMIT PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA AND OTHERS WERE "NOT UNSYMPATHETIC" TO THE U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION INITIATIVE SO LONG AS THEIR ENERGY NEEDS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

4. QUERIED ABOUT THE UK TAKING ARMS CONTROL INITIATIVES AS A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE, OWEN SAID BRITAIN HAD MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS FOR MIRV TEST BAN DURING THE PREVIOUS ROUNDS OF SALT NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN WORRIED ABOUT ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. HE CONCEDED THE UK WAS NOT QUITE IN THE SAME NUCLEAR LEAGUE AS THE U.S. AND USSR' BUT THOUGHT BRITAIN SHOULD PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE FUTURE. OWEN OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH THE UK HAD NO SPECIFIC POINTS TO MAKE RIGHT NOW, IT WOULD WORK DIRECTLY AND PRIVATELY THROUGH THE U.S. TO MAKE KNOWN ITS VIEWS ON SALT.
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5. OWEN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT DENIAL OF SOPHISTICATED CONVENTIONAL WEAPONRY TO NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES MIGHT PUSH THEM IN SOME CASES TOWARD THE NUCLEAR OPTION. A NATION'S INSTINCT TO PROTECT ITSELF IS STRONG AND BOUND TO BE SATISFIED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. ON A RELATED POINT, OWEN NOTED THAT EFFORTS TO BRING DETENTE TO AREAS OF HIGH POLITICAL TENSION SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST OR SOUTH AFRICA, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL ASSIST IN WINNING BROADER ACCEPTANCE OF NONPROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES. THE TWO APPROACHES ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE.

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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